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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

First Named Inventor: Makoto KATO, et al    §  
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Conf. No.:                      To Be Assigned    § Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned  
   §  
International                                   § Examiner:              To Be Assigned  
Appln. No.:                      PCT/JP2004/002667  
   §  
International                                   § Atty. Docket No.: 10407-123US(A4004MT-US1)  
Filing Date:                      03 March 2004           §

Title: ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC APPARATUS AND ULTRASONIC DIAGNOSTIC  
APPARATUS CONTROL METHOD

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)**

Enclosed are copies of each of the documents listed on the attached Information Disclosure Citation Form(s) PTO/SB/08A and/or B, which may be material to the patentability of this application and/or for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

Some of the enclosed references were cited in an International Search Report (copy enclosed) dated May 11, 2004, from the Japanese Patent Office concerning counterpart International Application No. PCT/JP2004/002667 and/or are cited and discussed in the Background section of the application.

In accordance with the official waiver posted July 11, 2003, wherein the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office officially waives the requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting copies of each of the cited U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent Application Publications with respect to applications filed after June 30, 2003, we have not included copies of such cited U.S. patent and U.S. Patent Application Publications. However, we will provide copies upon request. Copies of the foreign references are attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that any of the listed documents constitutes prior art, nor as an admission against

interest in any manner.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1017.

It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement and the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A and/or B be considered and acknowledged by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, be made of record therein, and that the listed document(s) be cited in the issued patent.

Respectfully submitted,

Makoto KATO, et al

December 30, 2004  
(Date)

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JDS:vj  
Enclosures

Form PTO/SB/08A  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
		Application Number	To Be Assigned
		Filing Date	Herewith
		First Named Inventor	Makoto KATO, et al
		Group Art Unit	To Be Assigned
		Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Sheet	1 of 1	Attorney Docket Number	10407-123US(A4004MT-US1)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
Exr Initials	U.S. Patent Document		Name of First Inventor of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-YYYY
	Number	Kind Code (if known)		
	5,840,028		Chubachi, et al.	11-1998
	6,036,643		Criton, et al.	03-2000
			</	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Exr Initials	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-YYYY	T <sub>1</sub>
	Country Code	Number	Kind Code (if known)			
	JP	2000-229078	A	Japan Science & Technology Corp.	08-2000	X*
	JP	09-051896	A	GE Yokogawa Medical Syst. Ltd.	02-1997	X*
	JP	2001-070305	A	Matsushita Electric Ind. Co. Ltd.	03-2001	X*
	JP	11-089846	A	Aloka Co. Ltd.	04-1999	X*
	JP	2001-292995	A	GE Yokogawa Medical Syst. Ltd.	10-2001	X*
	JP	62-266040	A	Toshiba Co.	11-1987	X**
	JP	2001-037758	A	GE Yokogawa Medical Syst. Ltd.	02-2001	X*
				* = Abstract Only		
				** = Partial Translation		

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS		
Exr Initials	Include Name of first Author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (where appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), volume-issue number(s), page(s), date (in parentheses). If a book, also include publisher and city and/or county where published.	T <sub>1</sub>

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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T<sub>1</sub> - Place a check mark if complete document is in English; otherwise, place a letter "A" if only an English abstract is attached.